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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. DICKEY].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communications from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 14, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable JAY DICK-  
EY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] for 5 minutes.

### IRS HOLDING UP REFUNDS OF SOME WHO FILE TAX RETURNS ELECTRONICALLY

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the people the administration has targeted for help through the minimum wage. These people need help today because of the administration. I rise today in support of hardworking Americans everywhere who are being unjustly punished by the IRS.

The IRS encourages people to file electronically. It saves time, paper, and mailing costs. Many Americans

have utilized this service because it means they can get their refunds much faster. Companies that prepare taxes will make refund anticipation loans to people who file electronically. It is a simple way for hardworking people to get money owed them by our Government fast—and these people depend on that refund check.

But in steps the IRS. The IRS has begun holding the refunds of those people who are filing electronically for the earned income tax credits. Our information is that the IRS is holding as many as 95 percent of those electronic filers seeking the earned income tax credit, in a supposed effort to cut down on fraud. These are people who do not make a lot of money and need those refund checks to get by. Their refunds are being held up to 2 months. They are unable to get refund loans from tax preparers because of the delay caused by the IRS. The IRS is creating a terrible problem for people who can afford it the least.

Mr. Speaker, we are just beginning to learn the consequences of the IRS' irresponsible actions. My office has learned of instances where people have been evicted from their homes because they were expecting a refund check that has yet to come. The other side has spent a lot of time telling us of the plight of the low-income worker. Well, right now, there are low-income workers depending on the Clinton administration, depending on a check from the IRS to pay for food or rent or heat on this cold February morning—a check that the IRS is holding up.

We live in an age where we depend on ever-expanding information technologies. In tax-filing, we encourage taxpayers to file electronically. We encourage people to use the information super highway. The Clinton administration has promoted the use of the information super highway. The Vice President has championed this as a step toward reinventing Government.

Well, Mr. Vice President, I hope you are paying attention, because some of America's hardest working low-income workers have stepped out onto the information super highway, and have gotten run over by the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] has documented the abuses of the IRS. This is just one further example. I am willing to consider a flat tax if for no other reason than it would eliminate most all of the need for having an IRS. I call on the IRS to immediately release the refunds due those hard-working people who filed electronically and to act more responsibly in the future. To the IRS, I say this, "You may be responsible for collecting taxes from the people, but that does not mean you are not responsible to the people."

### WE NEED COPS, NOT CONSULTANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK] for 4 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we began the debate and amendment process on H.R. 728, the crime bill, the Republican crime bill. Those of us who opposed 728 believe all it is is one huge block grant proposal to cut and gut the Clinton program.

Four months into this very successful program of putting police on the streets, Republicans want to gut the program for a block grant.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I took to this well, and I described the block grant program as "pork of Christmas past." We learned from the abuses in the past, in the late 1960's and early 1970's, and because of the abuses in law enforcement block grant proposals in the bill, we put in amendments that said block grant money cannot be used for tanks, armored personnel carriers, fixed-wing

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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